

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 00501 211908Z

43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-11 AID-20 SY-10 USSS-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /154 W

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P R 211825Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5043

INFO DIA DOD WASHDC

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, AR

SUBJECT: PERON CALLS FOR ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISTS

REF: DAO'S MSG IR 6 804 0030 74

1. SUMMARY: PERON LAST NIGHT RESPONDED TO JAN 20 TERRORIST ATTACK ON AZUL ARMY POST (SEE REF) WITH HARD-HITTING SPEECH CALLING FOR ALL-OUT EFFORT AGAINST TERRORISTS (FBIS TEXT OF WHICH WE ASSUME DEPT HAS ALREADY SEEN). END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY WISHED TO POINT TO SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF PERON SPEECH. MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT SUGGESTS HE HAS AT LAST SHIFTED GEARS ON PROBLEM OF TERRORISM. IN PAST, HE HAS REFERRED TO SUCH ACTIVISTS AS DELINQUENTS AND TAKEN RATHER AMBIGUOUS LINE. LAST NIGHT, HE FLATLY SAID THEY WERE NOT RPT NOT JUST GROUP OF DELINQUENTS; RATHER, THEY WERE ORGANIZATION WITH FOREIGN DIRECTION AND GOALS WHICH ATTACKED SOVEREIGN WILL OF ARGENTINE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT. GOVT HERETOFORE HAD RESTRAINED ITSELF AND AVOIDED SHOWDOWN, PERON SAID, BECAUSE IT WANTED PEACE AND UNITY. AZUL ATTACK, HOWEVER, SHOWED HOW

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 00501 211908Z

FAR TERRORISTS WERE WILLING TO GO. GOVTS PATIENCE WAS

EXHAUSTED. PERON CALLED FOR ALL-OUT EFFORT TO DESTROY TERRORISTS AND CALLED ON ALL SECTORS TO MOBILIZE IN THIS COMMON DEFENSE OF REPUBLIC, "WHICH IS NOW UNDER ATTACK."

3. TO EMPHASIZE THAT HE MEANT BUSINESS, AND TO IDENTIFY WITH ARMED FORCES, PERON GAVE SPEECH WEARING UNIFORM OF LT GENERAL AND FLANKED BY THREE SERVICE CHIEFS AS WELL AS CABINET. FURTHER, HE LAUDED ARMED FORCES FOR ADHERENCE TO CONSTITUTION AND SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION. ARMED FORCES DESERVED NOTHING BUT THANKS OF ARGENTINE PEOPLE AND COWARDLY ATTACK ON THEM WAS AFFRONT TO PATRIOTISM OF ARGENTINE PEOPLE AS A WHOLE.

4. IN WHAT WAS INTERPRETED AS DIRECT SLAP AT GOV BIDEAIN, LEFT-SYMPATHIZING GOV OF BA PROVINCE, AND INDIRECTLY AT PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES IN CORDOBA, PERON SAID IT NOT BY CHANCE THAT SUCH EVENTS TOOK PLACE IN CERTAIN JURISDICTIONS. HE SUGGESTED THIS BECAUSE OF CARELESSNESS AND INCOMPETENCE, OR, EVEN WORSE, POSSIBLE COLLUSION, OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. NAVAL ATTACHE INFORMED THIS MORNING BY ARGENTINE NAVAL AUTHORITIES THAT GOV BIDEAIN RESIGNED THIS MORNING, JAN 21, IN REACTION TO THAT SPEECH'S SCARCELY-VEILED REFERENCES TO HIM.

5. FINALLY, IN WHAT CLEARLY WAS EXHORTATION TO ARGENTINE PEOPLE, AND MOST ESPECIALLY TO PERONISTS, AND WORKERS, TO GET BEHIND HIM OR ELSE, PERON SAID HE WOULD NOT REMAIN IN OFFICE ONE DAY IF IT APPEARED ARGENTINE PEOPLE DID NOT SUPPORT HIM. IT WAS NOW TIME TO STOP SHOUTING "PERON" AND TO BEGIN DEFENDING HIM HE CONCLUDED.

6. COMMENT: PERON HAS CALLED FOR SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISTS BEFORE, BUT TONE AND THRUST OF LAST NIGHT'S SPEECH WAS DIFFERENT. THIS TIME THERE WERE NO AMBIGUITIES AND THERE WAS AIR OF FINALITY. PERON'S PATIENCE APPEARED TO BE COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED. HOPEFULLY, MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES WILL RESULT. ATTACK CAME AT CONVENIENT TIME FOR GOVT, WHAT WITH CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE ON AMENDMENTS OF PENAL CODE SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK. IN THIS CONTEXT, IT INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT UCR'S BALBIN AND LEADERS OF VARIOUS OTHER PARTIES HAVE CONDEMNED ATTACK IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS. THEY MAY NOT CHANGE THEIR OPPOSITION TO GOVT'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF PENAL CODE, BUT THEIR OWN POSITIONS BECOME SOMEWHAT LESS COM-
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PAGE 03 BUENOS 00501 211908Z

PELLING NONETHELESS.

7. PERON'S DONNING OF UNIFORM, PRAISE FOR ARMED FORCES AND ASSURANCES OF ALL-OUT EFFORT AGAINST TERRORISTS SHOULD REASSURE MILITARY AND RESULT IN SWINGING THEM IN EVEN MORE CLOSELY BEHIND PERON. TERRORISTS MAY THUS UNWITTINGLY HAVE AIDED PROCESS OF INSTITUTIONAL UNITY.
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